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Letter dated 5 May 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (the Russian Federation, the United States and France), and in reference to the letter dated 14 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/830-S/2016/346), we have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter from the Co-Chairs to the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to OSCE, delivered to the delegation of Azerbaijan to OSCE on 13 April (see annex).

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
Permanent Representative of France

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**
Permanent Representative of the United States

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 12 April 2016 from the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group addressed to the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Since large-scale military incidents began on 2 April 2016 in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs, along with senior representatives of the Co-Chair countries and other members of the international community, have emphatically called on the sides to strictly adhere to the 1994 ceasefire agreement, as well as the 1995 agreement on strengthening the ceasefire in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We welcome the 5 April 2016 agreement brokered by the Russian Federation on restoring the ceasefire regime.

We call on the sides not to permit violations of the aforementioned 1994 and 1995 agreements, whose terms do not expire and which, as before, make up the foundation of the cessation of hostilities in the conflict zone.

We are firmly convinced that the sides must immediately enter into negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive settlement. As mediators in the negotiation process, we reaffirm our readiness to assist the sides in any way possible to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

(*Signed*) Igor **Popov**
Co-Chair, Russian Federation

(*Signed*) James **Warlick**
Co-Chair, United States of America

(*Signed*) Pierre **Andrieu**
Co-Chair, France